

The Leesburg Tree Commission met in regular session on Monday, March 20, 2000 at 7:30 p.m. in the lower level meeting room, 25 West Market Street, Leesburg, Virginia. Members present were: Mr. John Groothuis, Ms. Anne Wall, Mr. Jim Hicks, Mr. Earl Hower, Mr. R. Max Peterson, Mr. Jay Frye and Ms. Kathleen Pritchard. Staff was represented by Mr. Jay S. Banks and Susan DeJong.

MINUTES:

The Minutes of the February 28th meeting were approved as amended.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. William Zawacki and Mr. John Elgin were attending the Tree Commission meeting to listen to the Commission's work.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Banks stated that he and the Parks Manager, Mr. John Johnston, met with the sub-contractor for the cable company that damaged the trees in Fox Ridge Park. Mr. Banks explained what the damages were. The sub-contractor asked if the trees would be taken down. Mr. Banks explained that the amount the Town was asking for was for damages and that the Town would be dealing with the trees for the next few years, keeping them safe as they slowly decline. Their life expectancy has been cut short.

Mr. Banks said that the Parks Manager feels at this time that he can get two trees planted in the park for the replacement of the two damaged trees.

Topics for discussion to bring before the Town Council will be deferred until next months Tree Commission Meeting.

Ms. Wall discussed her presentation of the Eastern Gateway project for the Town Council Work Session for next Monday night.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Hower suggested that perhaps the Tree Commission could find a sponsor for the "Door Hangers". Mr. Hower said that he would stop by Pizza Outlet some evening to see if they would be interested in advertising on the door hanger.

Mr. Groothuis suggested discussing this project again at a later time.

Ms. Pritchard would like for the Tree Commission to have a real tree on display for the Flower and Garden Festival.

Mr. Jay Frye said that he would donate a tree for the Festival.

Mr. Hower reported that the EAC wanted to thank the Tree Commission for sharing their booth with them for the Flower and Garden Festival. Mr. Hower suggested that the EAC

use the Tree Commission's backdrop and redesign the header board so that both Commissions are shown. The EAC is also having shirts made to wear at the Festival.

Mr. Banks asked the Commission if they wanted to use the same displays for their presentation board from last year or did they want to add to it.

Ms. Pritchard asked that the poster be available on "How To Kill A Tree", and that the Tree Commission purchase that poster and have it laminated.

Mr. Groothuis said that he would have something available for the display to make it more secure, and he would start saving newspapers to wrap up the seedlings in.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Ms. Pritchard said that the dumpster at the Court House is sitting on the roots of a tree.

Mr. Banks stated that this is County property and that they have been made aware of this.

Mr. Peterson thought that the Tree Commission should write an official letter to Judge Horne.

Mr. Groothuis said that he would give Mark Herring a call about the dumpster.

Ms. Wall asked about the trees that were damaged in Country Club.

Mr. Banks reported that they had been replaced.

The Commissioners asked if they should write a letter inviting the new Police Chief to one of their meetings.

Mr. Frye stated that he thought it would be a good idea if there could be some sort of centralization for 5 different departments that take care of the trees around the Town.

Mr. Banks said that there are actually 6 departments. The airport should be added to that list.

Mr. Peterson reported that as of last Friday there are 317 House sponsors for the Conservation Reinvestment Act (there are only 435 members). This is the only Bill in the last 20 years that has been endorsed by both the Republican Caucus and the Democratic Caucus. The ironic thing is that Virginia's Congressman, Frank Wolfe, does not support this Bill. Mr. Peterson urged the Commissioners to call Congressman Wolfe's office asking him to support Bill HR701 in the House (in the Senate it's S2123).

Mr. Bank reported that 2,500 Tree Care brochures have arrived. The site for the 2000th tree has been selected and approved (At the Public Safety Center). The Arbor Day Tree, A fifteen-foot Norway spruce, has been planted at Franklin Park in Purcellville. Mr.

Banks has put together a (draft) 10 page document on Tree Planting Specifications to be utilized by all the departments in the Town of Leesburg.

There being no further business the Tree Commission adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

Mr. Jay S. Banks, Town Arborist

Susan DeJong, Recording Secretary